

fairly, in all material respects, in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles.”

“This is the highest level of assurance that auditors are allowed to give,” said John A. Farrell, KPMG LLP partner and spokesman for the auditing team.

The audit examined GPO’s financial statements for fiscal year 1998, the second consecutive year in which GPO generated consolidated net income. For the year, GPO generated consolidated net income of nearly \$1.4 million on approximately \$723 million in total revenues.

The audit found “no instances of reportable noncompliance with laws and regulations we tested,” though it recommended the establishment of certain data processing controls. The 1998 financial audit findings continued GPO’s trend of “unqualified” audit opinions—the best that auditors can issue. A KPMG audit of GPO’s 1997 finances produced the same result—an “unqualified” opinion.

The 1998 management audit of GPO by Booz-Allen & Hamilton, Inc., concluded that “the financial management history at GPO demonstrates that the agency has had considerable experience as a business-oriented operation.” They also said “GPO has been a leader in providing Congress accrual-

based accounting and financial statements,” noting that the Chief Financial Officers Act of 1990 requires all executive branch agencies to implement accrual-based accounting systems.

GPO AND ENERGY DEPARTMENT WIN HAMMER AWARD FOR INFORMATION BRIDGE PROJECT

GPO and the Department of Energy (DOE) jointly earned a Hammer Award in 1999 from Vice President Gore’s National Partnership for Reinventing Government for the “Information Bridge,” a project that makes available thousands of unclassified DOE scientific and technical reports in electronic image format via **GPO Access**.

Public access via the “Information Bridge” resulted from an innovative partnership agreement between the DOE’s Office of Scientific and Technical Information (OSTI) and GPO’s Library Programs Service (LPS).

Using web technology, users can now enter the DOE electronic dissemination system through **GPO Access**. The “Information Bridge” gateway provides a specially designed public view to more than 30,000 DOE reports currently available electronically. Using this system, the public can access DOE-funded research and development output since January 1996. Reports are added on a daily basis as the research information is released.



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Highlights (continued)



A GPO-commissioned survey confirmed that the proliferation of mediums and formats has imposed new burdens and responsibilities in terms of equipment, training, and staffing needs.

This program eliminates the need for the reports to be disseminated in a printed format to depository libraries, saving production and distribution costs to the Government and the costs to the libraries to receive, process, shelf, and store the reports. As needed, reports in digital format are downloaded by depository libraries or individual users.

The jointly-earned Hammer Award is the second such honor involving **GPO Access**. In 1997, GPO and the Commerce Department jointly won a Hammer Award for **CBDNet**, the information service which makes the *Commerce Business Daily* freely accessible in real time over the Internet (<http://cbdnet.access.gpo.gov>).

GPO RELEASES FINAL REPORT ON ASSESSMENT OF ELECTRONIC GOVERNMENT INFORMATION PRODUCTS

In April 1999, GPO released the final report of a 9-month survey entitled *Assessment of Electronic Government Information Products*. The survey, commissioned by GPO from the National Commission on Libraries and Information Science (NCLIS), was prepared by an NCLIS contractor, Westat, Inc.

The survey was undertaken to collect information on Federal agency plans and practices related

to the growing use of electronic formats and mediums to disseminate Government information, and the implications of these trends for GPO's Federal Depository Library Program. While the library community strongly supports the increasing availability of Government information in electronic formats, the proliferation of mediums and formats has also imposed new burdens and responsibilities in terms of equipment, training, and staffing needs.

The survey covered information products from 24 different entities in all three branches of the Federal Government, including a number of congressional committees, the Supreme Court, and most of the cabinet departments. Approximately three-quarters of all survey instruments were returned completed.

The final report made 16 key findings. The survey identified the most prevalent mediums used to disseminate Government information, as well as the most prevalent formats, noting that these medium and format standards are "common agency practice rather than agency-mandated." The survey found that "the most prevalent types of mediums are the web, paper, CD-ROM, and bulletin board systems; [and] the most prevalent formats are HTML, PDF, GIF, JPEG, TIFF, and ASCII." The